



THE COLONNADE

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INSIDE

FEATURES



Old friends find harmony
Trio reunites for a night of euphonic performance.
Page 8

The Fitness Brief
Too much of a good thing can be really bad.
Page 9



Amateur Night at Blackbird
Talented hopefuls showcase their musical flair.
Page 8

SPORTS

A record in danger
Basketball player A.C. Clark closes in on block record.
Page 10

Loud and proud
The Thundercats make some noise.
Page 10

Coaches Corner
Dickstein gets personal with the coaches.
Page 11



Intense from the start
Nationally ranked No. 2 Bobcats play No. 1 Tampa for first game.
Page 11

WEEKEND WEATHER

Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
62 39 30%	55 32 10%	49 28 10%

Source: <http://weather.com>

NUMBER CRUNCH
\$2.6 Million

Money charged by CBS for a 30 second commercial spot in this year's Super Bowl.

Source: Yahoo Movies



BRITTANY THOMAS / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
(L-R) Andrew Tomaszewski, a sophomore biology major talks to Katie Jones, a sophomore pre-med major.

Lower interest rates favor students

BY SARA VER STEEG
SENIOR REPORTER

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill two weeks ago to cut student interest rates in half over the next five years. The "College Student Relief Act" dominated with a 356-71 vote.

The life of this bill is contingent upon the Senate's approval. If it passes, interest rates for students will drop to 3.4 percent by 2012. The reduction is limited to those with subsidized Stafford loans, which are loans based on financial need.

According to the U.S. Public Interest Research Groups, students with Stafford loans will save on average around \$4,000 by 2012.

Suzanne Pittman, director of financial aid at GCSU, said the decision was fantastic news.

"It's in everybody's best interest," Pittman said.

Pittman feels the most important thing was that this decision makes college more accessible to those who need financial aid. Some mention has been made of putting more money toward grants, which is money offered to students that they do not have to pay back. Pittman added that it would be a big help to students.

Even though the bill will only allow for five years of reduced rates, Pittman said this is due to the Sunset Provision, which means a law runs out after a specified time.

"You would think by that time [2012] it would be fixed in legislation," Pittman said. "Hopefully by the time we get there, something will have happened."

The interest rate for students is already lower

INTEREST Page 2

Library patrons grow used to increasing noise

BY BROOKE WILLIAMS
STAFF REPORTER

As libraries evolve into more multi-purpose media centers, quiet is no longer included in its general description.

The library at GCSU is quiet in certain areas and considerably noisy in others.

Most students and faculty view the rise in the noise level as a positive change, but some wish there was a little more quiet space.

Mary Jones, coordina-

tor of access services, graduated with the last all-female class at GCSU in 1967. She has seen the library grow from its original building into what it is today and she has welcomed the change.

"I used the original library that was built in 1932," Jones said. "So the library now is very exciting, I love coming to work every day."

GCSU's library has come a long way and is now considered to be the heart of the university.

When the third exten-

sion of the library opened its doors in 2005, students and faculty were introduced to a building that redefined its traditional purpose and function.

The new library, according to the GCSU library website is "designed to be the center of academic activity, with a wide variety of spaces for study, reflection, conversation, creativity and refreshments".

Jones equates the new setup to the growing trend

LIBRARY Page 3

Bobcat scores, fans roar



WILL GODFREY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
The Thundercats give Aaron Clark high fives as he exits the court last Saturday during the Bobcat's come-from-behind win against USC Upstate. The Bobcats took the lead with three and a half minutes to go, and won with a final score of 66-62. Clark scored his 900th point during the game, and The Thundercats kept the opposition on their toes.

Please see the full stories, both on Pg. 10

Help offered for major decisions

BY PATTY MAGUIRE
STAFF WRITER

Many college students know all too well the feeling of despair that comes when they have a major they love but are unsure of what to actually do with it.

To help students zoom in on job possibilities, the Career Center kicked off its "What to do with this Major" series with a focus on opportunities for English majors.

Jennifer Cash, assistant director of the university career center, facilitated the workshop.

"It was created to inform and enlighten students on the various careers they can enter with a particular major," Cash said. "Also, the series will highlight the skills that are gained from a major, as well as, discussing the strategies and

tips to take while in college to help them transition into their chosen career."

This workshop was the first of many upcoming talks, which will showcase majors such as community health, history, and psychology.

Cash states the English workshop was very successful as fifteen students were in attendance.

"I believe one of the reasons why it was successful is because of the collaborative effort between the Career Center, the Counseling Center, and the Center for Student Success," Cash said. "Along with discussing the career component, we added the interest, values and abilities assessment form from the Counseling Center and the academic component form from the Center for

MAJOR Page 2



ANDREW BENESH / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Jason Knox, a senior business major, works in the kitchen as a pizza chef at Luigi's Pizza.

New pizza place opens downtown

BY BECCA BROOKS
STAFF WRITER

Luigi's Pizza will lure more locals and students after their grand opening this coming weekend. Co-owner Dean Williams who has been fighting eye cancer, will be healthy enough to attend and host the grand opening with

his partner, Ara Kalpak this coming weekend. With the completed menu, they are literally ready to toss up the dough.

The previous initial opening held during the Sweetwater Festival introduced their fresh pizza, stromboli, and cal-

PIZZA Page 3

Interest

Continued from Page 1...

for students than other loan rates, but the bill, if passed, will focus on the needs of lower income students. "Students that have needs will be getting the

money they need," Pittman said. Many students do not realize how much debt they can accumulate during their undergraduate years. Pittman advises to only take the money when absolutely necessary. "The goal is not to set so much debt after you gradu-

ate," Pittman said. Some students are eligible for more help than they truly need, and Pittman said it is wise to start small and increase the amount if you need it later. "The important thing to do is to keep up with the cumulative amount through the years," Pittman said. "It is easy not to pay attention." Many students have a cruel awakening come senior year when they learn how many loans they have taken out. The financial aid office is a good source of information, Pittman said, and it is important for students to keep in touch with them and ask questions about issues they don't understand.

There is an exit counseling session for seniors to discuss the amount they have borrowed so they can know what to expect on their loans. "You don't want to go into shock when you graduate," Pittman said. Amanda Van Dalen, a senior political science major, knows what it is like to have debt. Van Dalen said she has taken out around \$7,000 in student loans. Van Dalen plans to live with her mom for a year after she graduates so she can pay it off immediately. Van Dalen also had a job throughout her years at GCSU and plans on continuing. Even though she was working, it became neces-

sary to take out loans. Van Dalen said, however, that it is necessary to have a plan and a source of income. "You have to be smart when you take out loans," Van Dalen said. "You have to be logical and have a job." Van Dalen also said it is wise for students to keep their parents up to date on their loans and accept their advice about how much to take out. Honors student David Nguyen realized the benefit of the reduced rates, but at the same time was apprehensive about the potential danger of lowering them. Nguyen said some students accumulate so much debt that they are unable to finish school.

"By lowering the interest rates for students loans, the government is allowing more students to stay in school and not worry so much about paying off their debts," Nguyen said. However, some students can abuse the help. "Many people can abuse the system," Nguyen said. "Students may be tempted to take too large of a loan and eventually be stuck in debt with a larger loan, even if the interest rate is much lower."

Got something to say about this article? Visit our message board at gcsunade.com

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Details on page 7

Major

Continued from Page 1...

Student Success." Cash believes all of those contributions should allow students to get the full effect of a good job search. "Those elements really helped the participants see the total picture when it comes to career planning," Cash affirms. Participants received many informational handouts detailing direct, less direct and indirect career options including a brief description of each. Surprisingly, graphic design, technical, administrative and even research jobs all benefit from an English background and hire English majors. Another handout broke down the field into specific areas in which students may prefer or be more skilled at, and then suggested possible employers and

strategies on getting one's foot in the door. These helped students see that English is not just reading or writing; it's very beneficial even in fields such as advertising, public relations, law and business. Sophomore English major Elyssa Sanner attended the workshop and says she found it very informative. "It provided lots of options and lots of resources so that someone could research a career on their own," Sanner said. "While it didn't clear everything up for me, it did give me ideas about where to look for internships and jobs." At GCSU, a bachelor of arts in English is accompanied with either a creative writing concentration or English/literature concentration. Both concentrations perfect specific skills and more information can be found on the university's Web site or by contacting Dr. Elaine Whitaker,



ANDREW BENESH / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Jennifer Cash assistant director of the university career center, led the discussion about English majors.

department chair for English, speech and journalism. In addition, there are many other workshops and events in the near future. Students should keep an eye out for a nonprofit symposium, nursing expo, education expo, a campus career fair and a handful of corporations coming in search of future employees. While the "What to do

with the Major" series workshop gave strategic tips on landing that dream job, Cash also emphasizes that students shouldn't choose a major they don't like. "Do what you love," Cash said. "If you have a passion for what you do, you will find that your work will be very enjoyable and satisfying."

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Library

Continued from Page 1...

contingent with the ambiance in popular bookstore chains such as Barnes & Nobles. These places are enabling people to browse, socialize and drink coffee at the same time, changing the once strict library atmosphere.

“Our library is similar in many ways to that comfortable setting, and we have had a few complaints about the noise,” Jones said. “Since the second floor is so open the noise from the atrium, which is mostly the coffee machine, filters up towards us. But it seems to fade once you get past the public access computers.”

Most students have adjusted to the new atmosphere the library provides and are not bothered by the noise.

“I usually go to the

library in between classes and sometimes in the afternoon if I have a test to study for,” said Nicole Brooks, a sophomore, with an undecided major. “I have never been distracted by cell phones or any other kind of noise. I think there are plenty of quiet study rooms to go to if you really want to get away from the commotion.”

Brooks does admit to hearing some interesting cell phone conversations from people who don’t seem to mind that everyone can hear what they are saying. Brooks said she listens to as much as she wants to hear and when she doesn’t want to hear anymore she shuts the noise out of her mind.

Not all students have the ability to ignore what they don’t want to hear. Jarring cell phone rings and phone conversations are not the only noises that can be distracting to students.

“I’ve always been able to tolerate people talking around the computer area,” Tyler Ransom, a sophomore mass communication major said. “But when babies are in there screaming and crying I get really distracted. I don’t think they should allow children under five in the library; they can’t read anyway.”

As GCSU’s student body continues to grow each year, policies concerning noise might eventually be put to place. But Jones has a difficult time viewing noise in the library negatively. Noise means the library is alive, active and providing students with an atmosphere conducive to learning.

Got an obnoxious library story? Tell us about it on our message board at gcsunade.com.



ANDREW BENESH / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Jason Knox, a senior business major, prepares a pizza in Luigi's Pizza. In addition to pizza, the restaurant serves calzones,, stromboli, and garlic knots.

Pizza

Continued from Page 1...

zones to Milledgeville.

“We dig it,” freshman music major Carlos Enamorado said. “It’s really cool that we can buy [the pizza] in slices here”.

There are several other aspects that are uniquely beneficial to Luigi’s customers. By accepting Bobcat Card, it creates another great dining option for students.

“[We receive] just as many Bobcat Cards, as we do credit cards,” employee Carrie Kalpak said.

Luigi’s has also created a positive family-friendly

environment by adhering to the owners’ strong Christian values by prohibiting the sale of alcohol.

To rival their competition, Luigi’s will have extended hours on Thursday nights, reopening from 1-2:30 a.m. to provide a haven for party-goers and night owls alike.

Wireless Internet is also offered, as well as a comfortable lounging area. This aspect not only goes against other local pizza restaurants, but popular coffee houses as well.

“We wanted to create a good environment where people could come hang out and just have a good time,” AraKalpak said.

The grand opening will not only commence the

delivery phase, but other “secret weapons” unique to Luigi’s. Likewise, WGUR will be attending and dough tossing contests will challenge the talented Milledgeville locals.

“We just have to let them know we are here,” said Ara Kalpak, “We’re blitzing it.”

The famous garlic knot recipe still remains a secret, but Ara Kalpak hinted, “We use the same dough as the pizza; you could probably figure it out by watching them make it.”

So next time you are debating between the downtown restaurants, take a left, try Luigi’s and see if you can figure out their special garlic knot recipe.

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DOMINY'S DOODLES

BY KYLE DOMINY



New Democrat Congress faces the same troubles as their predecessors



BY ANDREW ADAMS
COLUMNIST

In 2006 America watched as Congress suffered through numerous ethical setbacks. Then republican majority leader Tom Delay faced numerous minor charges which forced his resignation. Democratic congressman William Jefferson was found hiding \$90,000 in his freezer that he received from a bribe. And republican congressman Mark Foley sending very inappropriate messages to former pages topped off the year in a despicable way.

So Americans took to the voting booths and elected democratic majorities to both houses anticipating different and better leadership. Irish Catholic grandmother, Nancy Pelosi, was easily elected the new Speaker of the House and became the first woman to serve in that role. While being sworn in as the new Speaker she was accompanied by her daughters and grandchildren.

And the very first issues that Speaker Pelosi decided to tackle were very moderate issues that most of the nation could get behind. The first thing done by the new Congress was to pass all 9/11 Commission recommendations which President Bush intends to sign. The second item of business was slightly more controversial. Nancy Pelosi wanted to raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour.

Speaker Pelosi must have a great way with words as she was able to convince about one-third of the republican Congressional caucus to vote for the raise, as well as convince President Bush to ratify the legislation. She believed that raising the minimum wage was the best economic idea for the country.

The minimum wage increase passed the House easily and will be taking effect everywhere in the country and in all American territories except American Samoa. You're probably wondering why minimum wage isn't being increased in American Samoa if it is such a great idea. Does the American Congress just hate American Samoa?

StarKist has many employees in American Samoa earning around minimum wage. It turns out that the congressman that wrote this bill

receives large amounts of money from StarKist. Obviously there is something fishy (no pun intended) going on between StarKist and the author of this piece of legislation. Oddly enough, the author for this legislation was our own newly elected House Speaker. Nancy Pelosi, wanting to appease StarKist intentionally left American Samoa out of the minimum wage hike. American Samoa matters to Speaker Pelosi, but unfortunately appeasing big corporations matters more.

Nancy Pelosi became Speaker claiming that she would end the "era of corruption" in Congress. It turns out that even in her first hundred hours she falls victim to the corruption of her predecessors.

Send responses to
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

THE SGA NEWSFEED

It's that time of year again... Mr. and Mrs. GCSU elections! With Homecoming only a weekend away, the fate of the future of Mr. and Mrs. GCSU is certainly in question. Are you interested in becoming Mr. or Mrs. GCSU? Apply to run for the prestigious position anytime before this coming Monday, Feb. 5. Have any questions? Come by the Student Government Association Office in the Student Activities Center today for more information.

SGA passed a bill this past Wednesday to allocate

money to renovate the Greek benches on Front Campus, between Atkinson and Parks Hall. These benches, the property of some of the African American fraternities and sororities on campus, are in great need of repair, and SGA has made it possible to help the beautification of the GCSU Front Campus by giving these benches a new look. Be on the lookout for a new bench to sit on within the semester.

Are you afraid you won't graduate on time? The topic of the graduation Commencement cere-

monies that most graduates attend is now in question. Presently, a motion concerning Commencement specifications is on the floor of the GCSU University Senate. If passed, this motion will limit those students who have at least two or more classes to complete after the Commencement ceremony.

Interestingly enough, this issue is on the floor the same year Georgia College decided to no longer hold a December Commencement ceremony. Sound crazy to you? SGA is looking into the

matter, but we also need your help. Send your thoughts and views to student.government@gcsu.edu, and talk to you teachers, advisors, and administrators about how you feel. This could effect your walking in May.

Lastly, make sure to remember to participate in Homecoming on Feb. 10 in the Centennial Center. It is going to be big - and we want you there. See you then!

Submitted by SGA
President
Janessa Hartmann

Our Voice

*It's time to learn a thing
or two*

Here's an interesting story for you.

In 1802, John Clarke and a group of federal commissioners were scouting recently attained Native American land to construct a new state capitol. They came across a beautiful bubbling spring not far west of the Oconee River on fertile ground that was peppered with massive live oak trees.

The location was perfect. The land was pure. John Clarke collected a sample of the crystal clear water and mixed it with a cup of whiskey. He was pleased with the taste and it was settled. This would be Georgia's gateway to the west.

That was the birth of Milledgeville, the town we now call home. But where is the spring now? Why isn't there a town celebration every year where everyone can taste the pure, sweet waters that made this spot so perfect?

One would think that such a beautiful spot would be made into a park. The spring could be put under a fountain and people could lounge under the shade of the massive oaks. The description sounds like an ideal spot for family picnics or even another historic location to put on the map.

Unfortunately, that's not the case. Currently, the spring is located underneath the GCSU car garage at Plant Operations right by the Public Safety building.

It's not easy to find either. If you ever make it through the maze of GCSU Plant Operations you can only view the waters at the graces of Richard Campbell, the automotive shop foreman.

Dr. Bob Wilson has actually drunk the cool water mixed with whiskey just like John Clarke. So the water is still just as clean and clear as ever.

Here's another story you probably didn't know.

On the same ground that we attend classes everyday used to be the state penitentiary. Ironic, isn't it, considering some people see school and prison as one entity.

In 1864 the penitentiary mysteriously burned. This happened right before Sherman and his troops entered Milledgeville on their way to Savannah. Thus, Sherman automatically bore the burden of guilt. Sherman did destroy many structures during his short pass through Milledgeville, but the penitentiary was not one of them.

Even the New Georgia Encyclopedia credits Sherman to the fire, but they are wrong. In fact, no one really knows who started the inferno. Some historians believe that prisoners started the blaze trying to escape knowing that Sherman was coming. With Sherman's pyromaniac reputation it wasn't that hard to blame a fire on him.

Then years later, here we are.

Now you can go home and tell your parents you learned something.

Send responses to
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Super Bowl safety comes first

Dear Editor,

Super Bowl Sunday is one of America's biggest and most entertaining national sporting events as friends and families gather to socialize and watch the big game. Yet, it is also one of the nation's most dangerous days on the roadways due to impaired driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 158 people, representing 51 percent of all traffic fatalities, died during the 2004 Super Bowl weekend due to impaired drivers with blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels of .08 and higher. That's why P.A.W.S. (Peers Advocating Wellness Successfully) is joining with the National Football League (NFL), the Techniques for Effective

Alcohol Management Coalition (TEAM), Recording Artists, Actors and Athletes Against Drunk Driving (RADD), NHTSA and other state and local highway safety and law enforcement officials to remind everyone to act responsibly by designating a sober driver if they plan on using alcohol this Super Bowl weekend. Please remember that Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk. If you plan on using alcohol while cheering your team on to victory, pass your keys to a sober, designated driver before the Super Bowl party begins. Follow the rules or law enforcement will penalize you for driving impaired. Be sure to make the right play for the big game. This effort is part of the NFL-TEAM-RADD's season-long Responsibility Has Its

Rewards national designated driver program at every NFL stadium. During the 2004 NFL Season, more than 80,000 football fans pledged to be a sober designated driver. For 2005, TEAM projects more than 100,000 fans will have pledged to make the winning play. Drunk driving crashes—and fatalities—can be prevented. Please act responsibly. Pass your keys to a sober driver before the big game begins. And remember, real Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk. For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org and www.TeamCoalition.org.

Sincerely,
Beth Lanier
PAWS
President

GCSU's untold half of the story

Dear Editor

I would like to clarify some points made in the Jan. 19 Colonnade article, "Magnolia Park shuttle takes to the streets around GCSU."

First, Georgia College is pleased that Magnolia Park Apartments has been able to establish its long-promised campus shuttle service. Transportation to and from campus can often be frustrating for students who do not live in campus housing, and it is hoped that Magnolia will be able to maintain the shuttle service it now has underway. This should do much to alleviate the frustrations expressed by some of its residents.

I also believe it is important to note that a portion of your original story was misleading when it stated, "Transportation arrangements took longer than expected because Magnolia Apartments had hoped that

GCSU would work with them."

In fact, GCSU officials repeatedly reached out to Magnolia Parks' management in a good-faith effort to resolve its lack of promised shuttle service. These overtures included offering several options, and a willingness to extend negotiations. The university even offered to participate in alternative dispute resolution in hopes of reaching a compromise that would be fair to everyone involved.

The story also stated that Magnolia Park officials were "willing to pay GCSU for transportation" – however, it neglected to include the fact that Magnolia's proposed contribution was substantially less than the actual cost of running such a shuttle service. It would not only be a poor use of student funds to subsidize a private company in this manner, but the university is not even legally permit-

ted to do so. Although GCSU and Magnolia officials were unable to work out an acceptable arrangement for shuttle service, the university did work to coordinate schedules and campus drop-off locations for the Magnolia-operated shuttle, and Magnolia Park accepted our assistance with determining a route that maximizes the safety of Magnolia's residents. It was disappointing that the university did not have an opportunity to respond to the issues raised in the Jan. 19 story, but we look forward to doing so in the future, especially in matters where GCSU's willingness to accommodate the needs of our students is questioned.

Sincerely,
Kyle Cullars
Auxiliary Service
Director

CLARIFICATION:

The previous issue of The Colonnade, we stated in a photo outline that employees of The Brick make less than minimum wage. The outline was supposed to read "Less than **the proposed** minimum wage." The Brick does pay all of it's employees the current minimum wage or higher.

THE COLONNADE POLICY: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Colonnade encourages readers to express their views and opinions by sending letters to the editor at: CBX 2442; Milledgeville, Ga. 31061 or by e-mail at colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

All letters must be typed and include:

- names
- address/ Email address
- telephone number
- year of study
- major

Only your name, year of study and major will be listed.

- Unsigned letters will not be printed. Names will be withheld only under very unusual circumstances.
- Letters longer than 300

words may be condensed.

- All letters will be edited for grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.
- All letters become the property of The Colonnade and cannot be returned.
- We are not able to acknowledge their receipt or disposition. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the Editor in Chief.

POLL OF THE WEEK

GRAPHIC BY KYLE DOMINY

Results to last weeks poll on the State of the Union.

a) Bush has great goals 23%

b) No opinion 6%

c) What is Bush on? 38%

d) Didn't watch 33%

This week's poll:

Why do you watch the Super Bowl?

Vote Online Now!



How do you feel about the decrease in interest rates for student loans?



"I think it is great for the economy. It makes me think back to my economics class and our discussion on interest rates."

Joey Shakelford, Junior, Biology

"Even though I do not have one, I know that it is a good thing they decreased the rates."

Rick Williams, Sophomore, Business

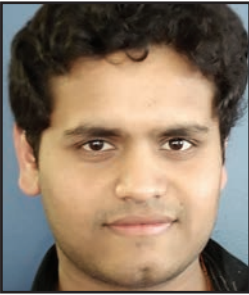


"A decrease will make it easier for students to obtain loans."

Ashley Pugh, Sophomore, Mass Communication

"I believe it is important for students to get loans with lower tax rates."

Vishal Patel, freshman, Information Systems



"My parents took out a loan from our bank. I am not sure what the interest rate was, but I know students and parents will have to now pay less. In my case, maybe I won't have to work as much while I am in school in the future!"

Jessica McClung, Freshman, Nursing

Beat Reported by Kate McWilliams

The Litter Box

Instant Message with "ColonnadeVent"

ColonnadeVent

Last message received at: 6:33:10 PM

In 2040, vote for a man of morals and integrity. Vote For Mr. President!!!

Playing WoW in class may not raise Intelligence or Charisma, but it sure raises Spirit!

I think GCSU should pay ME a parking/ transportation fee for all of the gas I use when I'm driving around campus, looking for a spot.

So if you did not go to the basketball game last Saturday against USC Upstate, you pretty much missed probably one of the greatest comebacks in Bobcat hoops. The energy was amazing. And you NEED to come to the games. Our girls and guys are AMAZING! Pack it out for homecoming people and wear your blue and green!

I was in the creek behind Magonlia Park Apartments.....it is full of litter. lots of building supplies..wood, nails...and just plain trash. Glad they care about our environment!

Why is it that the Milledgeville Police choose to hover around downtown waiting for an underage drunk kid (who is just trying having a good time) when there are drug deals and other serious situations going down practically two miles away from campus? Cant we just have fun like all the other underage drinkers at other schools? Please?

If the eCATS email is the "official means of communication" then how come it never works!?!?

If you're actually going to have the balls to charge me 75 cents PER PAGE to print something in the Mac lab, then you have to at least have the decency to change the ink when needed or pay me back for my dodgy prints.

If Mr. T saw a ship full of fools he would sink it with his own pity.

Do you know what I love? A good sneeze. It really clears out the nasal passages.

Is the world around you not good enough? GET YOUR IPOD OUT OF YOUR EARS!!

What do you call a man with no arms or legs by the door? Mat.

Lucida G... 12 B I U A A Link

Want to vent about something? Send us a message about what's bothering you to screen name ColonnadeVent. Comments can be sent anytime, any day of the week.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

February 2 - February 7

Friday, February 2

8 a.m.- 6 p.m. Regional Science & Engineering Fair, Centennial Center
2 p.m. Poker Tournament, Magnolia Ballroom
3:30 p.m. L.E.A.D Meeting, 131 Maxwell Student Union
5 p.m. GCSU Homecoming Parade Registration Deadline, SAC, Third Floor
7 p.m. First Friday Foreign Films: Depuis qu'Otar est parti (Rep. Georgia)
8 p.m. 4th Annual GCSU Idol, Magnolia Ballroom (Doors open at 7p.m.)

Saturday, February 3

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. iMovie Workshop, Library Instructional Technology Center
2 p.m. Lady Bobcats Basketball vs. North Georgia, Centennial Center
4 p.m. Bobcats Basketball vs. North Georgia, Centennial Center

Sunday, February 4

3 p.m. Lecture Series at Andalusia - Rena patton, Dining Room, Main House at Andalusia
5:30 - 10 p.m. Superbowl XLI Viewing Party, Parkhurst Classroom

Monday, February 5

4 p.m. S.O.A.R. Meeting, MSU Lounge

Tuesday, February 6

4:30 p.m. Volunteer Meeting, 143 Maxwell Student Union
7 - 8:30 p.m. Global Warming Teach-In: An Inconvenient Truth, A&S Auditorium
7:30 p.m. David Watkins on Piano, Max Noah Recital Hall
7 p.m. Campus Catholics Holy Grounds, Blackbird Coffee House
8 p.m. BSU Synergy, Magnolia Ballroom, SAC


Wednesday, February 7

12:30 - 1:45 p.m. Workshop: Exploring the Dimensions of Learning, University Banquet room A
5:30 - 7 p.m. Global Democracy First Wednesday Teach-In series, University Banquet Room
5 p.m. SIFE Meeting, 109 Atkinson Hall
6 p.m. A.N.G.E.L.S. (Aids Now Grasps Every Living Soul), The GIVE Center
6 p.m. NAACP Black History Trivia Night, MSU Lounge
7 p.m. Guest Lecture, Magnolia Ballroom
8 p.m. Wesley House, Magnolia Ballroom

Please send calendar submissions to colonnadenews@gcsu.edu

THE COLONNADE

Public Safety Report



Pants-napped!

On Jan. 22, at approximately 2 p.m., an individual reported that their pants and wallet were stolen from a locker in the Wellness Depot on Jan. 19. There are no suspects at this time.

Information compiled by Jessica Murphy

Urine and saliva do not mix

On Jan. 28, at approximately 1:58 a.m., Officer Gaines observed a male urinating on the outside of Joiners Market. Contact was made with the individual who was arrested and transported to Milledgeville P.D. and charged with public drunk. While in the detention area, the individual spit in the face of another inmate and was forced to stay at Milledgeville P.D. due to his intoxication.

Please go online to gcsunade.com to download the extended Public Safety Report podcast.

Spraypaint bandit strikes Bobcat Village

On Jan. 29, at 1:59 p.m., a student reported that an unknown person had spray painted two parking signs at Bobcat Village. There were also obscenities spray painted on the brick wall at the car wash. There are no suspects at this time.

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Fake fighting made easy



TIM VACULA / SPECIAL TO THE COLONNADE
Jason Armit (left) demonstrates one of his techniques used to depict realistic violence on television and in movies.

BY BRIAN FARRELL
STAFF WRITER

He's been kicked in the eye, punched in the head by a 300-pound man and stabbed in the face with a sword. He's not a member of the G-Unit or a Civil

War re-enactor, his name is Jason Armit and he is a professional fight choreographer who specializes in stage combat for live theater. His motto is "safety first," but his job is to create realism.

"All that Hollywood violence is easily done with

computers," Armit said. "I have to make this stuff look real to a live audience."

Last Thursday, Armit gave a demonstration in Russell Auditorium of many common fight moves in his industry such as the slap-down, the punch to the face, the knee to the groin and a very convincing two-handed choke-out, complete with full sound effects.

"It was a very interesting performance," said Ashley Sanders, a freshman. "My favorite fight move was the kick in the stomach."

Armit has a wide range of training under his belt to assist him with his job and came highly recommended according to GCSU Theater Chair Kathleen McGeever.

"I was a paratrooper and I also dabble in different martial arts," Armit said. "I try to learn how different styles' look, so if I need to portray a particular style in a show I know how to do it. For example, I may need to know the difference between someone who is doing jiu-jitsu versus someone who is doing Shaolin kung fu."

Armit is also an educated man. He has his bachelor of fine arts in performance from the University of Southern Mississippi, he's a certified teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors and the director of the Atlanta Stage Combat Studio. He is cur-

rently doing the fight choreography for the GCSU Theater production of "A Streetcar Named Desire," premiering in Russell Auditorium Feb. 21.

"A Streetcar Named Desire' is a classic," McGeever said. "It's a wonderful story about relationships and struggling against change."

Armit has always had a passion for theater.

"I used to be an actor but now I'm the magician in the background making the illusion happen," Armit said. "I love watching the audience tense up."

Armit's all-time favorite scene to choreograph was in a play called "Hot and Throbbing" in which he choreographed the strangling of a woman in a powerful critique of spousal abuse.

"It's been fun working with Jason," said Justin Miles, a sophomore who will be playing the male lead of Stanley in the GCSU production. "I'm not very proficient in combat training and I really haven't had any since seventh grade, but he's got a good sense of humor and he's fun to work with."

Armit's work can be appreciated in live action in several shows running from Feb. 21-25 in Russell. The GCSU Music and Theater Department would like to encourage all students to come out and catch a show.

DeVitis honored by alma mater

BY PATTY MAGUIRE
STAFF WRITER

If the fact that 92 percent of faculty hold doctoral degrees is any indication of the rigor and quality of the John H. Lounsbury School of Education, it is no surprise that an already well-decorated professor, Dr. Joseph DeVitis, would receive the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

DeVitis graciously accepts his recognition remarking that it brings "validation... receiving the award was major corroboration that one's professional achievements were of substantial worth to students, faculty and alumni in the world of education." Adding that his alma mater has one of the most highly-ranked colleges of education, the revolutionary nature of the early 1970s, when DeVitis received his doctorate in social foundations in education/educational policy studies was special because of the "significant social change. I sought to be part of that change – in my teaching scholarship and service."

It is this commitment to service and reform that earned DeVitis the respect of many students and faculty alike, as his nomination was reviewed by a committee of peers and students as they searched for candidates with schol-

arship, professional and community contributions, and of course, good teaching.

Also the author of nine books, DeVitis stays busy with his research to dictate "the role of the 'public intellectual.'...a scholar/teacher who is willing and able to communicate with both academic communities and wider public audiences."

Rather than being a tedious lecturer, great teaching involves sharing one's passion with students in hopes of catching their interest or allowing them to find their own. Sharing his belief that students need to "reflect critically on those wider social, economic, and political forces that shape and circumscribe what schools can and cannot do" and actively work as "architects of change," DeVitis' emphasis on social change is all the more admirable because he himself leads by example. In addition to various past leadership positions, he currently volunteers for St. Stephen's Food Pantry and is a member of the Progressive Democrats of Central Georgia.

While DeVitis has such an impressive background, comments from the GCSU community illustrate the extent of his concern for education and make all the more evident how effective of an educator he is.

Dr. Marianne Edwards,

DEVITIS Page 9

Blackbird provides amateurs chance to jam

BY SALEM COOK
STAFF WRITER

A quiet tapping on the microphone and a request to silence all cell phones signifies the beginning of Acoustic Night at Blackbird Coffee. Every Tuesday around 8 p.m., students and non-students alike gather in the basement of Blackbird to show their creativity.

Casey Sullivan, a junior Art Studios major, developed "Acoustic Night" from poetry night. The setup is similar. In both instances people go to the stage in the basement of Blackbird to recite original

The stage is set and seating is provided. Musicians can choose to sit or stand, but a stool provides most of the performers with support. However, the audience also provides a different kind of support. Performing for the first time, Kelly Nicholson, a sophomore Outdoor Education major, was nervous when her name was called from Sullivan's list of performers.

"(Acoustic Night) was the most people I had ever played in front of," Nicholson said. "My natural instinct was to be nervous, but I asked for love from the audience. They



SALEM COOK / STAFF WRITER
Wes Tanner and his brother Jamie perform at Blackbird Coffee.

or previously performed poetry. Sullivan just put a twist on a growing epidemic for creativity.

"Last year during poetry night, people began to bring acoustic guitars on stage to perform," said Sullivan. "Since people were starting to play music it just seemed like a natural progression to devote a night to music rather than simply poetry."

And so last January Acoustic Night began.

cheered and I was not so nervous anymore. They were a generous audience."

Sarah Fleetwood, a junior Art major and regular Acoustic Night attendee loves the atmosphere.

"Acoustic Night is one of my favorite things to do in Milledgeville," Fleetwood said. "There's nothing better than enjoying a fine cup of Joe, with

ACOUSTIC Page 9

Mercier, Horgan, Edwards reunite

BY PATTY MAGUIRE
STAFF WRITER

GCSU students were serenaded Jan. 23 with the musical stylings of Brad Edwards, brass instructor at the University of South Carolina, on the trombone and GCSU's very own Richard Mercier, on piano, and Maureen Horgan, on trombone respectively.

The Department of Music and Theatre have always invited exceptional guest artists, but few have as serendipitous of a story as this trio does. While Horgan was a graduate student at the Yale School of Music, Edwards was an undergraduate student at the Hartt School of Music and each knew of the other.

Years later, the two ran into each other at a trombone workshop, and eager for the chance to reminisce, Horgan invited Edwards to play at GCSU with Richard Mercier. Unbeknownst to Horgan, Mercier was the accompanist to Edwards at his undergrad recital in 1986 and he was thrilled for the chance to reunite.

Performing an anniversary encore of their piece, "Sonatina," Edwards jokingly proclaimed there would be "another 20-year reunion in 2026." GCSU music chair, Mercier shares how "really wonderful it was to play and make music together."

And the music was wonderful. The program was a fun and upbeat selection. In addition to Edward's recital piece, he also performed his own composition, "Four Impromptus for Low Bone Alone," with a movement dedicated to each season.



RACHEL SLOAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Richard Mercier (piano) and Brad Edwards (trombone) reunite for a performance at Max Noah Recital Hall.

Praising the way words and music "intercept," he read a short poem before playing, likening it to a "trailer for music."

Students can relate all too well to the idle "meandering" of late summer before the hectic pace of back to school (deadlines pressing). With a quirky sprinkling of characters, Edwards and Mercier concluded with the theme song for "Gaucho," "Peacock," "Recluse," "Windup Toy" and "Hawker". The pieces were played so lively that they brightened the chilly January night.

Edwards is currently second trombone for the Augusta Symphony and has an impressive resume of solo performances, including the United States Air Force Concert Band. He has published one composition and two books, along with teaching at numerous schools and playing in many ensembles. Lauren Lundin, a



sophomore English major, was captivated by his overall performance.

"As a trombone player, I can appreciate the technical skill involved to sound as good as he did, but I've always loved to watch trombonists," Lundin said. "Their sound is pleasing because of their mellow tone, and the slide lends itself to unique sounds that other brass instruments can't make. But they are

also a pleasure to watch because the slide moves with the changing notes, adding a visual aspect that is more like watching the bow of a violin instead of a musician pressing down keys."

Greg Burns, a senior music education major, himself a trumpet player, took Mercier's piano class and currently works in his

TRIO Page 9

Fitness brief: *avoiding overtraining*



BY DEVIN VERNICK
SENIOR REPORTER

Quantity doesn’t substitute for quality. Some GCSU students seem to miss this point when it comes to physical health. Whether driven by an obsession with body image or athletic performance, there is such a thing as “working out too much.”

Students who spend two or more hours lifting weights, running, or a combination of the two are putting their bodies at risk and wasting time, according to Dr. Michael Martino. Martino is coordinator of the exercise science program at GCSU and has trained many world-class athletes in different sports.

“Anybody who exercises more than 30 to 60 minutes at a time - unless they’re an athlete - does not need to train for that long. Intensity is the most important ingredient,” said Martino said.

Even NCAA athletes make the mistake of “overtraining” their bod-

ies, Martino pointed out. This term refers to when an individual becomes repeatedly stressed by training to the point where rest is no longer adequate for recovery. “Overtraining Syndrome” is the name given to the emotional, behavioral and physical symptoms due to overtraining.

Since the majority of GCSU students who lift weights or run often are not NCAA athletes, what else would motivate them to spend too much of their time doing these activities?

GCSU juniors Rich Dobson and Nick Bell, both exercise science students, say they think students who spend too much time in the gym are motivated by one main reason. “It’s body image,” Bell said. “People feel like they have to look a certain way, so people come in [the Wellness Depot] too much to try to look like what they see in magazines and on TV,” said Bell said.

Bell and Dobson’s academics involve studying the effects of exercise on the body. Even though they understand that personal appearance is important to most people, neither of them believes that vanity should be the guiding motivation to be active.

“It’s a waste of time to be in here for two hours . . . when people are in here

for two hours and work out your biceps, you’re only damaging your body,” Dobson said. This may not come as a surprise for some.

However, Dr. Martino brought up that discussions have taken place concerning the relationship between extreme overtraining and cancer.

The theory pertains to whether or not chronic, excessive exercise over long periods of time may predispose an individual to certain forms of cancer.

Before you freak out and throw away your gym shoes, realize that this has not been clinically proven, and if not true, it doesn’t threaten the average fitness enthusiast.

“We have to find that limit, and be satisfied with it. We can’t be so consumed by American society by trying to be better and better. People are never satisfied with who they are, and that is part of what causes overtraining,” said Martino said.

Most, if not all of these bodies seen on magazine covers do not get that way naturally. They are the result of many nutritional supplements, photo editing and other forms of enhancement.

“When you’re dealing with exercise, there comes a point where too much is not good for your health,” said Bell.

Trio

Continued from page 8...

office.

“I love it and respect him because he is a phenomenal musician and it’s great working with someone who knows so much about music. Plus, he treats all his students with respect,” Burns said when asked how it felt to hear his “boss” play. In addition to directing the Central Georgia Junior

Piano Olympics, an adolescent piano competition, and working at various workshops, he has performed at venues in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Most recently, in June 2006, he received an invitation to play at Xinjiang Arts University in China. Mercier has already published numerous titles and has one in progress.

Excited to play with such a great crew, Dr. Horgan is no stranger to the music world. A freelance

trombonist, Horgan has performed with the Opera Company of Boston, the Honolulu Symphony, the Boston Philharmonic and at major festivals such as the International Trombone Workshop, the Eastern Trombone Workshop, and the International Women’s Brass Conference. When school’s out for Summer, she performs with the New Hampshire Music Festival.

Acoustic

Continued from page 8...

good friends, while listening to sweet tunes.”

Nearly 60 people watched Nicholson along with 13 other performers. However, on an average Tuesday there are only seven performers, but the audiences are getting bigger.

“Some nights are better than others,” said Sullivan. “There are many people who come every week. Tony Ransom, a junior Art major, comes prepared to play drums almost every week. I like it when groups collaborate.”

Nicholson contributed to a trend that Sullivan

noticed. Performers are beginning to be more creative with the instruments on stage. In recent weeks, pianos, violins, mandolins, harmonicas and kazoos are being used. Nicholson broke in the kazoo for her performance.

“I’ve always had a kazoo,” said Nicholson. “Some people give me crazy looks, but a lot of people play the guitar and not so many people play the kazoo. It just seemed like a nice change of pace, plus I love the kazoo.”

New instruments are beneficial to musicians and audience members alike. Each week is different from the next. New performers, new instruments, and new audience vary from week to

week..

“Acoustic Night is always filled with surprises,” said Fleetwood. “Kelly busted in with a kazoo solo, which blew my mind. I love hearing new instruments incorporated with the acoustic show.”

Acoustic Night encompasses a variety of acts. Blues, rock, folk, bluegrass, and originals are the primary performances, but the door will not be shut on anyone. Everybody is welcomed.

“We get all kinds of acts,” said Sullivan. “A variety of acts is what makes Acoustic Night entertaining. It’s a good venue to try new things and people are psyched to hear new music.”

DeVitis

Continued from page 8...

a fellow professor in the Foundations and Secondary Education, comments that DeVitis is “low key” about his endeavors, but still manages to inspire his students.

“My advisees tell me how much they enjoyed the stimulating atmosphere in Dr. DeVitis’ class and how he worked to bring as much ‘real life’ perspective and experience into the class as

much as possible,” Edwards said. I see how consistent this is with the very things he was being honored for and as I extend my hardest congratulations, I know they chose wisely.”

Freshmen Courtney Patterson, an early childhood education major, took his education in today’s schools course Fall semester.

“He told great personal stories about his experiences that applied to the

concepts we were learning in class,” Patterson said.

One of DeVitis’ current students, Edel Cuenca, a junior with an undeclared major, agrees and admits that hearing how enriching the class is from Patterson made her eager to take the course.

“I’m really glad I listened to my roommate’s recommendation to take this class. So far, it’s been a rewarding experience and I can’t wait to finish out the semester,” Cuenca said.

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THE
SPORTS GUY

BY WES BROWN

Bat and glove
school

GCSU Athletics has been dominated for many years by one sport: basketball. Men and women's basketball has claimed all the attention due to the allure of the game and the abundance of talent we have received for this sport.

But the school has slowly transitioned sports in the last couple of years. We are now a bat and glove school and not a basketball school. Just look at GCSU's baseball and softball programs. Both these sports are achieving everything needed to create a competitive and intense program: a talented team, accomplished track record and a heated rivalry. I cannot talk about both programs in one column, so I will focus on baseball this week and show my love for the Lady Bobcats next week.

Since the inception of Chris Calciano as head coach two years ago, the baseball program has become one of the most impressive programs in the NCAA Division II. The Bobcats are favored to win the Peach Belt Conference (PBC) and are ranked second in the Collegiate Baseball Magazine Division II Preseason Poll.

Last season GCSU won its first PBC Championship and returned to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2002. GCSU went 53-12 overall, the most wins since the program joined the NCAA ranks in 1992. The Bobcats also hosted the NCAA South Atlantic Regional for the first time in school history. The Bobcats also were ranked No. 1 in the nation for a school record eight weeks during the season.

In claiming their best season in school history, the school established two intense rivalries with the Spartans from the University of Tampa and the patriots of Francis Marion University. GCSU took two out of three from 2006 national champion University of Tampa in the season opener and battled with them all season for the No. 1 ranking. The Spartans lucked out as the Patriots eliminated GCSU 7-4 in the semifinals of the College World Series.

This year Tampa is ranked No. 1 in the NCAA Division II and Francis Marion is ranked sixth and is predicted to finish second in the PBC. I would not miss a game, as things will not cool down this year. The Bobcats open the season in a No. 1 versus No. 2 match-up at Tampa on Friday, Feb. 2.

Clark cracks into the record books

BY JOURDAN HAMILTON
STAFF WRITER

Slam dunks might sell tickets, but nothing crushes an opposing team's will like a blocked shot. Whether it is pinned off the glass or beaten into the crowd, a shot block instantly silences a hostile crowd or brings a roar of "Ohhh!!" and cheers for the home team.

On the GCSU men's basketball team, no one knows that better than starting center Aaron Clark.

Aaron Clark, a.k.a. "A.C.," moved into second place passing J.J. Madden for GCSU career blocks in the game at Augusta State on Jan. 24.

While the Suwannee native might not be the most physically intimidating center, at 6'9", 210 pounds, his 93 career blocks make him a serious and formidable defensive threat in the paint. His presence on the court is respected by rival coaches as well as by his own head coach, Terry Sellers.

"He's one of the best post players I've coached," Sellers said. "He's always in the right place at the right time to get some great blocks for us."

And it does not look like Clark will be doing anything but continuing to get better.

"Each year he's gotten stronger," Sellers said. "His first year he was more



WILL GODFREY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Aaron Clark (22) denies USC Upstate guard Jeremy Byrd (20) from getting to the basket. Clark scored nine points, including his 900th career point, last Saturday at home.

of a defensive player for us, but now he has become a much better scorer."

If you don't believe Sellers looks up the stats, or better yet, go to a game. Last season Clark was one of the team's leading scorers and this season, to date,

he holds that crown.

Clark averages 15 points per game and scored his 900th career point last Saturday against USC Upstate. He is 186 points from being one of GCSU's top ten all-time scorers, number ten has 1,086.

However Clark has not forgotten his defensive roots stemming from his Collins Hill days where he blocked two to three shots a game.

His great play this season has not inflated his pride and he still remains a

humble student of the game.

"We've had a lot of good players come through here and it's flattering to be mentioned with guys like Tony Edmondson, Julius Josephs and J.J. Madden," Clark said.

When asked what potentially game changing play he prefers most, the dunk or the shot block, Clark quickly replied.

"If I can pin it that what I want to do... When somebody's goin' up and I can beat it off the glass - I like that," Clark said.

So what makes him so good at it?

"Blocking shots is 99 percent timing," Clark said. "Then it's about getting up there and going after it more than anything."

A.C.'s determination and good timing get him big ups from his teammates too.

"It gets me pumped up to see him playing with confidence," starting point guard Shejdie Childs said. "It sends a message to the other team, 'We're here. There won't be anything easy tonight, so you're going to have to work for everything.'"

Clark's next hurdle is Johnny Simpson. It will not be easy to pass him, as he needs 121 blocks to pass Simpson who blocked 214 shots from 1984-86.

Thundercats intimidate visiting teams

BY KYLE COLLINS
SENIOR REPORTER

There is a growing trend on basketball nights at the Centennial Center. Those who love their Bobcats can go one step further to show support for the home team.

The excitable and basketball-loving crowd known as the Thundercats has simple requirements.

"People just have to stand up and yell for the whole game," junior Chris McCorkhill said.

Some version of painted hecklers has existed since the Centennial Center opened in 1989. Athletic director Stan Aldridge remembers an All-American baseball player who sparked enthusiasm by painting up as an official with a dagger in his back.

"I love the enthusiasm and hope to see the whole student section full of these guys," Aldridge said.

The growth of the Thundercats has given the group a reputation with players and coaches. McCorkhill, a fan responsible for the Thundercat rebirth, said the group can distract opposing players from the game.

Some coaches try unsuccessfully to force the referees to control or quiet the GCSU super-fans. As long as they keep their jokes and chants respectable, visiting teams cannot stifle the home court advantage.

"The primary purpose of collegiate athletics is to get the students to feel like it's their team too," men's Head Coach Terry Sellers said.

Aldridge said in the last 10 years one athletic director has complained about the loud students.

Officials have the right to



WILL GODFREY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The Thundercats go crazy as the men's basketball team took the lead last Saturday against USC Upstate at the Centennial Center. The Thundercats can be seen with their full body paint and heard with their rowdy cheers supporting the basketball teams at all home games.

choose their restrictions on the Thundercats. Most let them stay on the court border.

"Referees usually don't mind us as long as we don't make any contact with the players," McCorkhill said.

A Peach Belt Conference rule reserving seats behind the visiting team's bench prevents emotions from becoming too intense. Campus police are always close by to diffuse any conflict.

"I've only had to calm the guys down a few times," Aldridge said. "The group does a good job of keeping the cheers fun."

The positive energy gives the

players an extra edge at the Centennial Center and even for some away games.

In an exhibition game at Mercer's University Center, the Thundercats arrived in full body paint to yell at high decibels for GCSU.

"For them to show up in Macon was huge for us, I was surprised and appreciative," Sellers said.

Campus Ministries has organized the cheering section over the past few years. Their weekly meeting time was moved to make room for the Wednesday night games.

As both men's and women's

basketball heads towards the final stretch of the season, student support is crucial.

"More excitement and a larger home crowd give us a definite advantage," Sellers said.

GCSU students have the option to watch exciting and competitive PBC basketball on a weekly basis. Some of the top-ranked teams in the nation compete at the Centennial Center.

Those students who want to take their support of Bobcat basketball to the next level can stand with the Thundercats. Just bring friends who have good jokes and don't mind yelling.

THE
SHORT
STOP

Upcoming Sports

Men's Basketball:

Feb. 3	4 p.m.	North Ga.
Feb. 7	7:30p.m.	@Columbus St.

Women's Basketball:

Feb. 3	2 p.m.	North Ga.
Feb. 7	5:30 p.m.	@Columbus St.

Baseball:

Feb. 2	3 p.m. DH	@Tampa
Feb. 3	1 p.m.	@Tampa

Softball:

Feb. 8	2 p.m.	Clarke-Atl.
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STAT of the WEEK

10

The amount of points the men's basketball team trailed USC upstate by with 8:48 left in the game before coming back to win 66-62 Jan. 27.

COACHES CORNER

BY COREY DICKSTEIN This Week: Terry Sellers



Coach Terry Sellers grew up idolizing legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden. Wooden was known for his calm approach to coaching; Sellers, GCSU's men's head coach is not.

Sellers can often be seen showing emotion on the sidelines during basketball games.

"I set out to be like Coach Wooden (on the sidelines)," Sellers said. "But very early in my career I realized that we all have different personalities and we have to be ourselves."

Sellers does have something in common with Wooden: success as a college basketball coach.

In Sellers' 14 years at GCSU he has amassed 230 wins, as of Jan. 27, four Peach Belt Conference championships and three PBC Coach of the Year honors.

His best year may have been in 2000 when he guid-

ed the Bobcats to a PBC championship, an NCAA regional championship and an appearance in the NCAA Division II tournament's Elite Eight round and earned the honor of Coach of the Year for Division II in the state of Georgia.

"I've been fortunate enough to have some good players," Sellers said. "That, of course, is obviously the key to having good teams."

Sellers credits the institution as much as anything for his success in recruiting top players to come to GCSU.

"I think we have a lot of pluses here," Sellers said. "We can certainly sell our academics here at Georgia College, we have a unique environment here, more like a small Division I school. We have a really good environment here, just a strong tradition, and I think it attracts players here."

The winning tradition Sellers has helped establish does not hurt either.

"We've established a pretty good tradition here over the past 10 or 12 years with some conference championships," Sellers said. "That helps players feel like if they come here, they have a chance to be successful and compete for conference championships."

Sellers also acknowledges the student body as being an integral element to their success, especially over the past few seasons.

"We've been getting really good crowds," Sellers said. "I'd like to say how much I appreciate, and I know the team appreciates the support we've had at our games. It really makes a difference and it gives the team a boost. It's been a good year as far as student support and I hope they know it is greatly appreciated."

GCSU, Tampa battle for Division II throne



WILL GODFREY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Freshman pitcher Andrew Harris lightly tosses in the outfield during practice Wednesday. The Bobcats start the season ranked No. 2 in Division II and travel to Tampa to open the season against the No. 1 ranked Spartans this weekend.

BY DANIEL TROUTMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Every athlete dreams of being No. 1 in their sport, but the GCSU Bobcats baseball team doesn't have to dream it. They can achieve it the first weekend of the season.

GCSU starts their season ranked No. 2 in Division II, according to the College Baseball Magazine National Poll, and will play No. 1 University of Tampa, the defending College World Series champions, this opening weekend, Feb. 2-3, at Tampa.

Head baseball coach Chris Calciano and his staff didn't know Tampa would be No. 1 when they scheduled this meeting.

"We schedule so much in advance that (we) know Tampa's going to be an outstanding program, we know we're going to be an outstanding program," Calciano said.

Now these top two programs, who are a little more than six hours away, will face off with a lot more on the line than just wins and losses.

"I think every year you open up with Tampa, you know right away you're going to find out what kind of team you've got," Calciano said. "It's (going to) tell you where you are (as a team)."

Calciano mentioned that the games will be covered in several collegiate sports magazines and it was this game that defined the season for both teams last season.

"When they came in here (Kurtz Field) last year and we beat them two out of three that was a wake-up call to them," Calciano said. "After (that) they played unbelievable baseball and went on and won the national championship. For us (beating them) was a springboard to our early success."

But to get past this team and begin on the road to the College World Series, Calciano will be counting on his seniors to lead the team.

"The 12 seniors (we have) really all were integral parts of what we did last year (and) the season we had. Day to day, they're

a great group of seniors," Calciano said.

Catcher Trip Burt and outfielders Casey Cullen and Justin Mills are among the seniors that will make sure the Bobcat team wins the series against Tampa this weekend.

"Not only are they leaders but they're important players in the big picture...for us," Calciano said.

Among the seniors looking to make an impact is senior starting pitcher Mike Antonini, who chose to return to GCSU for his senior year after being drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies.

"Mike Antonini is our ace, our left-handed pitcher," Calciano said. "He was second team All-American (last year) and first team All-Conference. We had a confidence about us (last year) that he was going to put us in a position to win. (I) couldn't ask for a better guy to start the season."

Baseball Top of page

Baseball

continued from bottom...

Antonini commented on the opening game and its implications as well.

"I don't think there is any better way to kick off the season and I feel confident in going down there and being able to become No. 1 coming back from the weekend," Antonini said.

Antonini even predict-

ed the outcome.

"I think we're going to sweep them 3-0," Antonini said.

Senior infielder Rich Janofsky also commented on the upcoming series.

"Normally you wait until the end of the season for showcase games," Calciano said. "(It) gives us a chance to show our talents and how we're becoming one of the top Division II teams in the country."

Assistant coach John Carty is ready and excited about this opening weekend, but he understands the effect of playing No. 1 Tampa opening weekend when it comes to preparation for a team.

"You're not going to be in mid-season form, but we try to be as fundamentally sound and we try to eliminate as many mistakes that we might have come (this) week," said Carty.

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